

STATE SENATOR • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

Schauer Press Release



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State Sen. Mark Schauer Testifies at BRAC Meeting

**Schauer urges military to take a second
look at base closure, encourages visit**

LANSING—Discussion at the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) meeting in St. Louis today focused on military value and the importance of having a base of this kind in Michigan. State Sen. Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek) testified in support of keeping the 110th Airborne Division at the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base (BCANGB) in Battle Creek. Schauer has been active in promoting the base since the BRAC recommendations first appeared last month.

“We understand the military’s need to cut costs. Budgets are tight in all areas of government right now. When the military takes a second look at the closures that will be the safest and most efficient, I am confident that BCANGB will remain open,” explained Schauer. “I strongly suggest that BRAC visit the base and see first-hand the work that these service men and women do.”

BRAC has not yet visited the Battle Creek site. Additionally, there are serious concerns about the methods by which cost savings associated with closing BCANGB were determined.

“Both the military and local community depend a great deal on this base,” said Schauer. “When you take into consideration what’s good for the military and local economy, it is clear that the 110th fighter wing should stay at BCANGB.”

Sen. Schauer was the only state-level official from Michigan given the opportunity to testify. His introduction is attached.

“I felt it was important to make our case in person. The men and women of the 110th fighter wing are heroes,” Schauer said. “They fought valiantly in Iraq and play an important role in our country’s national defense. We are proud of them and want them and their work to continue to contribute to our community.”

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Mark Schauer is the Senate Democratic Floor Leader. He represents the 19th Senate District, which includes all of Calhoun County and most of Jackson County.

Testimony Introduction for Senator Mark Schauer before the BRAC Commission

June 20, 2005, St. Louis, MO

Commissioners, thank you for the opportunity to testify. I'm Mark Schauer, Michigan State Senator from Battle Creek, home of the 110th Fighter Wing and the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base.

Our goal today is to raise, in your mind, serious questions as to the wisdom of moving the 110th, closure of the Air National Guard base, and ending the Air Guard's 60-year association with southwest Michigan. In doing so, we hope the commission will grant our request to conduct a site visit, ultimately leading to a decision to retain the 110th in Battle Creek and remove the Air National Guard Base from the closure list.

The four speakers to follow will clearly demonstrate that the methodology and analysis used to calculate the cost savings of moving the 110th and to calculate military value for A-10's at Battle Creek are seriously flawed. They will further demonstrate the serious consequences of this recommendation to our air deployability and combat capability.

First, George Erickcek of the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research will present his analysis of the flaws in the DOD's WIDGET and COBRA methodology.